

Longfield School
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Achieving High Standards by Demanding Excellence





Welcome to our School

Longfield School is a popular and oversubscribed school with many fine traditions and values. It also embraces the latest technological advances in ICT and is one of few secondary schools in the country to have these facilities in every classroom and work area. Children and parents will soon be able to access and complete their work at home 24 hrs a day and 365 days of the year. They will have access to the latest digital resources to help them as well as schemes of work and lesson plans, provided by Longfield's teaching staff.

The school is organised to ensure that each child is happy and successful. There is a simple but very important philosophy, which is the foundation for the work of the school. **We expect the highest standards of discipline, academic endeavour and examination success for all of the children entrusted into our care.** We expect our children to be proud to be part of our school.

I am privileged to lead a team of dedicated and highly qualified professionals who are committed to a programme of continuous improvement in all aspects of their work.

Children are our future. They flourish when they know they are safe, cared for and wanted. We work constantly with families to ensure that a real partnership exists to look after the interests of every child, because at Longfield every child is special.



The School is in the Community and is for the Community.

We engage the school at all levels to ensure that it continually looks forward and relishes challenges for the future. Our school takes on a new life at the end of formal lessons; we are always looking to provide quality experiences for all in our community.

All parents demand a quality education for their child and several members of my own staff have chosen Longfield for their children. Indeed I can think of no greater testament to illustrate my personal confidence in the school to you. We can give a future for your children that will be bright, challenging and successful.

We were delighted to be awarded Specialist Sports College status for September 2004. This means considerable amounts of money (initially about £750,000) to improve all Departments in the school.

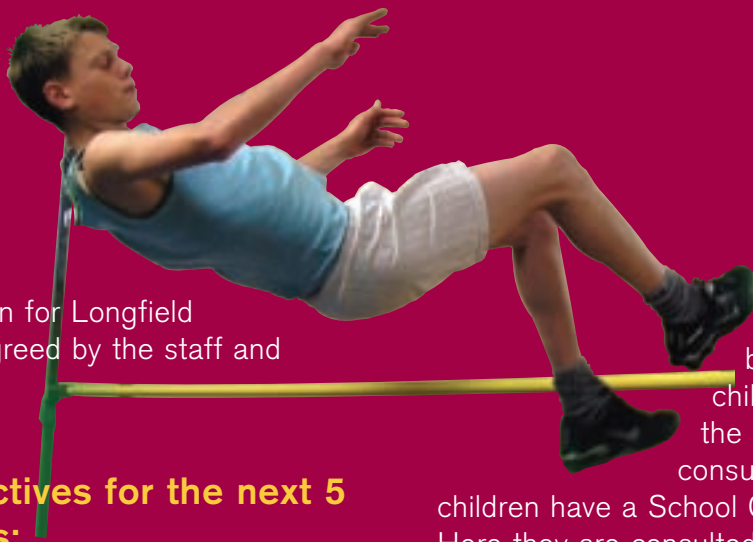
We are all particularly proud of what we are achieving at Longfield

You all have my personal invitation to visit the school at any time, to witness the transformation in the school.



Keith B. Cotgrave M.Sc - Headteacher





Our Vision

We have a very clear vision for Longfield School which has been agreed by the staff and the Governors.

Our Strategic Objectives for the next 5 years are as follows:

- to provide a disciplined, academic and caring environment for all;
- to become recognised as a high achieving school;
- to become a leading Sports College;
- to provide a quality learning environment for all;
- to become an E-learning Community of excellence;

Longfield School is well organised to care for and value each student individually. The school aims to provide each student with the opportunity to:

- appreciate learning and to reach her or his full academic potential;
- gain the highest level of accreditation / examination success of which she or he is capable;
- reach the best standards of personal and social behaviour;
- experience trust, respect and responsibilities, leading to self reliance and discipline;
- be a caring member of the community.

Starting School

Starting a new school can be a very unsettling time for a child. We recognise this, and plan to ensure a trouble free transition. We liaise very closely with our primary school colleagues, gaining valuable information about your child from teachers who already know them very well. All children who are to transfer to us will become familiar with the school during the year before they arrive. Special events are organised to make sure that all children get to know their teachers and the school environment.

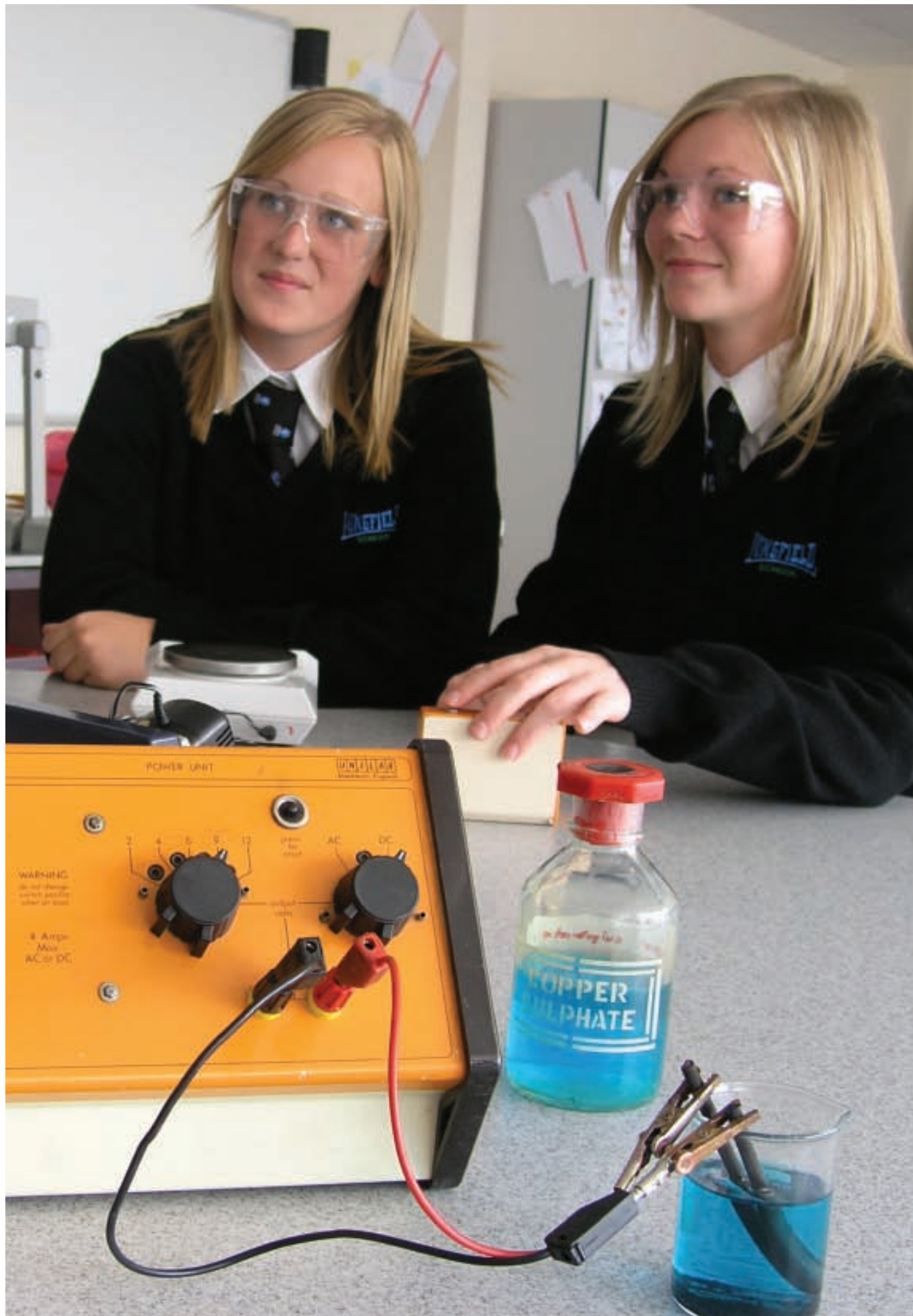
We are a school that believes in school uniform. There are many practical reasons why it is desirable and cost

effective for parents, but more importantly it gives children a sense of belonging. We expect all children to be proud wearers of the Longfield uniform and regularly consult them on its design. Our children have a School Council which meets monthly. Here they are consulted about, and asked for, their suggestions on a wide range of topics as to how we can improve their lives in our school. We are very much aware of the fact that the school only exists because of its students.

Pupil Care and Guidance

The school believes in and plans to keep, classes small to allow for as much individual attention as possible. Each child has her or his own form tutor. Tutors monitor your child's progress and sort out any problems that your child may have. Prefects are always available so that your child has direct access to senior students in the school, who are there to help. Regular contact between home and school is maintained via your child's school planner; here pupils record their timetable and their homework. We like parents to sign the planner each week and to take a keen interest in their work at school. Parents and teachers have a daily facility to write comments to each other and keep in touch with their child's progress. If parents have concerns, they are encouraged to contact the school. If this is inconvenient, a member of staff will arrange for a home visit. The school will report to you every term on your child's progress and help you and your child set targets for the following term.







The Curriculum Design and Delivery

The school meets the needs of the National Curriculum orders; these are viewed, however, as a mechanism to ensure a minimum entitlement for all students. **Longfield School offers much more than a minimum.** Our children need and deserve more. Every opportunity is taken to enrich the curriculum in a variety of ways.

Learning is at the heart of what we seek to achieve as a school. The curriculum is carefully designed and costed to ensure it reflects “Our Vision”; it is the vehicle that turns Vision into reality. The school is justifiably proud of the activities taking place outside the normal school day. All of which are accepted as entitlements which enhance our normal offering to the children.

It is the school's belief, which has been commended by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, that the curriculum be driven by a philosophy that ensures breadth, balance and access for all students

Breadth of design gives every child the opportunity to experience all areas of the curriculum.

Balance of provision ensures that all areas of experience are given parity of esteem in the eyes of the students. Choices which could affect opportunities for Further and Higher Education are not narrowed at an early age.

Access to opportunities ensures justice and underpins the part of the Vision of each student being of equal worth.

As children enter, and progress through the school, they undergo a variety of diagnostic assessments designed to give us a total picture of a child's ability. This enables the school to monitor whether the child is achieving at the level that we would expect. If this is the case, we will regularly praise their efforts. If this is not the case, we will investigate the reasons for this and work with parents to support and encourage the child to remedy the situation.

In classes, the school has an agreed set of classroom expectations. The school has also formulated a Code of Conduct. The Code states one simple rule, which applies to staff and students alike, that “Everyone will act with courtesy and consideration at all times”.

The Headteacher and his senior colleagues monitor the quality of teaching and learning in the school. They make regular visits to classrooms to observe work in progress. If they receive reports that a student is adversely affecting the work of others the school has a system whereby the offending student is removed from the classroom quickly for remedial action to take place. On the very rare occasion when such action fails to be effective, the Headteacher will have no hesitation in using the power given to him to exclude the student from the school to ensure the well being, academic progress and the safety of other Students.

We expect all of our students to study full G.C.S.E Courses (or their equivalent) in their subjects and to pass their final examinations at the highest level possible.





All schools have lessons, but we provide a great deal more....

Other activities that Longfield arranges for its students are almost too many to number. We aim to be a centre of excellence in all that we do.

The school is justifiably proud of its many local, regional, national and international successes. Students have won many cups, trophies, awards and prizes. The staff are equally proud of their success. Longfield School was given the School Achievement Award by the DfES, Sports Mark by Sport England, the Healthy Schools award by Durham Health Authority and of course most recently Specialist College and Training School Status.

All students are encouraged to take part in activities outside normal school hours. Sports are many and varied including athletics, cricket, cross-country, tennis, football, netball, rugby and trampoline. Longfield runs foreign exchange visits to Germany, France and Spain. These visits include cultural trips as well. Skiing courses are available and the long established annual skiing holiday is very popular. Outdoor pursuits are organised and include mountaineering, camping, sailing and canoeing. The school is gaining an enviable reputation in the rapidly growing area of Performing Arts which includes Music and Drama, and its team always performs well at Darlington's Annual Public Speaking Competition. The quality of its productions has received accolades from press and television alike.

Student discos are a very popular activity. These are held in the evening and take place regularly throughout the year. The school also hosts many quality community events, to which all are welcomed. It is fast becoming a venue for major artistes of international renown. It is supported by the Friends of Longfield Association which is a registered charity in its own right.

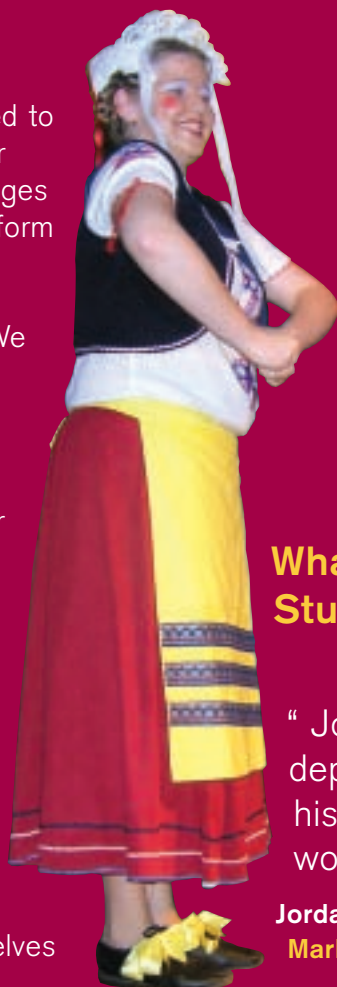
Every evening, Longfield is a very busy place. The school received an award from the Prince's Trust for its Homework Club. This facility is available to all students every night after school where they can utilise the latest technologies and gain friendly advice on the best way of completing and presenting their work. All Departments run drop in clinics for students who may need extra help from time to time. A relevant performance indicator in the school is the increasing number of students who have to be reminded to go home!

Lifelong Learning

At Longfield School your child will be encouraged to consider that learning is something we do all our lives. We have firmly established links with Colleges of Further Education as well as traditional sixth form establishments. Our work with these colleges is designed so that students are encouraged to continue their studies when they leave school. We have direct partnership arrangements with the Universities of Durham, Newcastle, Sunderland and Teesside. It is perfectly feasible for your child to join our school and ultimately access positions at these and other distinguished higher education institutions.

Business Education Partnerships

Longfield has very strong links with the local industry and commerce. Business ambassadors regularly visit the school. Every student has a curriculum entitlement to quality work experience prior to leaving the school; this adds relevance to their studies. Teachers also constantly update their skills by involving themselves in industrial placements in a variety of contexts.



What Employers Think Of Our Students.....

“ Jordan has impressed all departments he has worked in with his maturity, initiative and team work”.

Jordan Rogers-Smith
Marks and Spencer.

“Nathan worked in the Technical and Design department and he expressed great enthusiasm and flair for design engineering. He plans to study at University and should have a great career ahead of him”.

Nathan Ghundoo.
Cummins Engineering Company.

“ A very bright, polite and nice person. Very good experience for him and us. We wish Andrew much success in the future”

Andrew Davison.
University of Teesside.

And finally ... thank you for reading this brochure. The selection of the right school is an important decision. We are confident that Longfield School can provide an excellent education for your child's future.

